



State of Utah

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Client Service Memorandum 2017-10

TO: All Client Service Staff

FROM: Emily Stirling, Policy Coordinator

Authorized By: Aaron Thompson, Rehabilitation Services Director

SUBJECT: Use of Licensed Mental Health Providers, Policy Clarification

Date Issued: October 5, 2017

Date Effective: October 5, 2017

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Client Service Memorandum is to provide policy clarification and guidance regarding the use of licensed mental health providers. The guidance provided in this memo supersedes any prior directives including guidance emails sent prior to 10/5/2017.

POLICY

14.5 Provider Licensure & Fee Schedule (5/01/2012)

"Physical and mental restoration services shall be provided only by vendors licensed in accordance with State licensing laws and by appropriate certified professionals. The services they provide to USOR clients shall be in accordance with those services for which they are licensed or certified. USOR utilizes the Division of Occupational & Professional Licensing website to verify licenses and scope of practice allowed under state law to determine utilization of a vendor. Restoration services shall be authorized in accordance with established fee schedules and levels of approval for each particular service or group of services. Consult Chapter 12 for USOR approved fees on routine restoration services."

PROCEDURE

To ensure that our clients receive quality services from fully credentialed and accountable providers and that USOR is able to provide services in the most direct and efficient manner, only fully licensed Master's level or Ph.D. mental health providers should be authorized for payment for mental health therapy services. This excludes professionals who are working toward licensure and operating under another professional's license. Examples of approved licensed providers include: Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW), Clinical Mental Health Counselors (CMHC), Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFT), and Licensed Psychologists (Ph.d., Psy. d.). Examples of providers who are not approved include: Certified Social Worker CSW, Associate Clinical Mental Health Counselor (ACMHC), Substance Use Disorder Counselor (SUDC), and Non-licensed Ph.D students/interns/residents. Any exception to this policy will require a Client Service Recommendation approved by exception at the Field Service Director level. In all instances, VR Counselors may only authorize to providers working within their professional scope of practice.



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Evaluations

USOR staff may continue to accept a diagnosis signed by associate licensed interns when it is also signed by that associate's fully licensed supervisor, but may not pay unlicensed providers for evaluations.

The Transition Period

A transition period of six months will be granted in order to avoid service disruption for clients who have a current mental restoration plan to see a specific provider who does not meet the above licensing requirement. During that time, client's working with an un-licensed professional will be allowed to continue treatment with that provider at the rate of \$75/hour at the master degree level and \$85/hour at the doctorate degree level. Clients working with these providers must either transition to a licensed service provider or conclude restoration activities by March 30, 2018.